

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 0518

FOR CU/EA AND EA/RA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, JA, OEXC
SUBJECT: FY77 LABOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM: DOMEI PUBLIC SECTOR TEAM

REF: A) TOKYO 18994, B) STATE 304755, C) TOKYO 17927

1. UNDOUBTEDLY, ONE IMPORTANT BASIC, EVEN IF NOT CLEARLY
STATED, OBJECTIVE OF PUBLIC SECTOR TEAM'S VISIT TO US
(REFTELS) IS DETERMINATION TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH AMERICAN
COUNTERPARTS, PARTICULARLY US POSTAL, RAILWAY AND TEACHERS
UNIONS.

2. ALTHOUGH THEY CONSTITUTE ONLY 7 PERCENT OF DOMEI'S OVER TWO
MILLION MEMBERS AND REPRESENT ONLY SMALL MINORITY OF
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC CORPORATION WORKERS (MOST OF
WHOM ARE ORGANIZED BY SOHYO AFFILIATES), DOMEI PUBLIC SECTOR
UNIONS HAVE LONG FELT IGNORED BY THEIR US COUNTERPARTS.
SINCE THEY JUSTIFY THEIR EXISTENCE AS "SECOND UNIONS"
IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES ON GROUNDS THAT THEY AND NOT SOHYO
AFFILIATES REPRESENT TRULY DEMOCRATIC ANTI-COMMUNIST
UNIONISM, THEY HAVE WATCHED WITH STEADILY GROWING
APPREHENSION GREAT EXPANSION IN RECENT YEARS OF DIRECT
EXCHANGES BETWEEN AFL-CIO AND SOHYO PUBLIC SECTOR
UNIONS. THEY VIEW SUCH EXCHANGES AS AWARD BY US SIDE
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OF SEAL OF APPROVAL TO ZENTEI, ZENDENTSU, KOKURO AND
NIKKYOSO AND, CONVERSELY, AS SERIOUS THREAT TO THEIR OWN
RATIONALE FOR SEPARATE ORGANIZATIONAL EXISTENCE. THIS
APPREHENSION TURNED TO NEAR PANIC LAST SUMMER WHEN
JAPANESE MEDIA HEADLINED SOHYO CHAIRMAN MAKIEDA'S
MEETING WITH MEANY AND CONCLUDED IT MEANT RAPPROCHEMENT
BETWEEN TWO NATIONAL CENTERS AT EXPENSE OF DOMEI.

DOMEI'S CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PUBLIC SECTOR
REPS REPORTEDLY WERE MOST OUTSPOKEN CRITICS OF AFL-CIO'S
DECISION TO MEET WITH MAKIEDA.

3. TO PACIFY ITS PUBLIC SECTOR UNIONS AND, AT SAME TIME,
TO GIVE THEM OPPORTUNITY TO CULTIVATE US SIDE, DOMEI
HEADQUARTERS, SINCE LAST SUMMER, HAS BEGUN PUSHING
THEM TO FOREFRONT IN US-JAPAN LABOR EXCHANGES. FIRST
EVIDENCE WAS DOMEI NOMINATION OF ITS POSTAL WORKERS
(ZENYUSEI) PRESIDENT FUKUI FOR US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
OBSERVER TEAM (TOKYO'S 13745). DOMEI HEADQUARTERS
SUBSEQUENTLY REQUESTED AT VIRTUALLY LAST MINUTE THAT
SUBJECT TEAM REPLACE PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED CHEMICAL WORKERS
TEAM IN REGULAR FY77 LEP.

4. IN VIEW OF ABOVE, IT MIGHT WELL BE USEFUL TO
REMIND US UNIONS RECEIVING THIS TEAM THAT, BECAUSE OF
GREAT ANTAGONISM BETWEEN RIVAL SOHYO AND DOMEI PUBLIC
SECTOR UNIONS, TEAM MEMBERS WILL BE PARTICULARLY
SENSITIVE TO REFERENCES TO ONGOING EXCHANGE PROGRAMS
WITH SOHYO AFFILIATES.

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